



The Professional Center
for Child Development

Our Children, Our Stars

In this issue we continue to celebrate our year long salute to all of our children (past, present and future) who are the true stars. As the Professional Center for Child Development moves into its 37th year Veryl Anderson, RN, Co-Founder & Executive Director pledges to continue to update the agency strategic plans and incorporate new ideas and innovative services and programs. The families we serve have created stars — we strive to help them shine.



Present star—Emma... By: Melanie, 2x2 Program

Like so many Two-by-Two children, Emma is learning and growing together with her family and her "family" at the PCCD. She is all smiles coming through the doors as she attends the community play group.

Emma enjoys arts and crafts, playing in the kitchen and reading books. She has an older sister who also attended the program and we are looking forward to having her baby brother as a future STAR.



Past stars - Caroline and Catherine... By: The Girls Mom, Maureen

Our lives have been truly blessed by the adoption of two beautiful baby girls from China. Our oldest, Caroline, spent the first nine months of her life in an orphanage. While she was well cared for by her Chinese nannies, she was severely underweight and had significant developmental delays. Our youngest, Catherine, spent the first nine months of her life with a foster family, was well cared for and didn't have any significant developmental delays.

One of our first phone calls after returning home after each trip to China was to The Professional Center for Child Development...



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and

130 Parker Street,
Lawrence, MA 01843

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Programs at the PCCD

- ◆ Early Intervention
- ◆ Developmental Day School
- ◆ Two-by-Two & EI play groups
- ◆ Regional Consultation Program
- ◆ Private Therapy Program / Preschool

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From The Desk of The Executive Director

The spring season was beautiful here at the Center. Our playground, surrounded by flowering trees, was a very pleasant and busy place to play and enjoy nature and warm sunshine. We are looking forward to spending even more time playing outside during our summer sessions.

Our Swing into Spring Gala Event was well attended and a really great time for everyone. It was a beautiful spring evening, and the Andover Country Club was the perfect place to be. I want to thank our major sponsor, Commonwealth Motors and the Daher Family for their generosity. We also had additional sponsors and many volunteers who helped us make the event so successful. We are grateful to all who donated and volunteered.

Two of our long time employees are moving on to enjoy their retirement plans:

Kathy Heseltine, 29 years

Roxann Nickerson, 30 years

We are very grateful for their dedicated service to our children and families and to the Center. They will be missed.

Our summer groups and programs have been expanded, and we are making plans

to have a very happy and healthy summer. Stay tuned for more announcements as we move forward with the events we are planning for the coming months.



Veryl Anderson (left) at the Gala with former board member Christopher Concheri and his wife, Linda.

Veryl D. Anderson, RN
Executive Director

Early Intervention at the Professional Center for Child Development

Andover, Lawrence, Methuen, and North Andover and are delayed or at risk for delay, using the Department of Public Health criteria

- Determines eligibility through an assessment process which includes an inter-disciplinary evaluation
- Delivers interventions from licensed and certified educators, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, social workers, and nurses at home, child care centers, and other natural environments. Group services are located at community sites and at our Andover and Lawrence Centers
- Is family centered, developmental, and based on the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)
- Is funded by third party insurance, Mass Health, the Department of Public Health, and parent fees on a sliding fee scale
- ♦ Helps with transitions at age three to public schools, pre-schools, child care, etc. (for EI eligible children)

- Is one of 57 Early Intervention Programs in Massachusetts, certified by the Department of Public Health, serving children birth to three years of age and their families

- Provides evaluations for children who live in

TV. If kids are entertained by two letters, imagine the fun they'll have with twenty-six. Open your child's imagination. Open a book.



~Author Unknown

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RCP News

-By Vivian Burton, RN MSN CEIS

The Regional Consultation Program (RCP) assists families with children who have medical and complex care needs. This program is funded by The Professional Center for Child Development, the Department of Public Health (DPH) and Early Education and Care (EEC). We are ending our fiscal year with 161 families in the Northeast. We have worked with families and staff in 13 Early Intervention Programs over the past year. The RCP sponsored 4 sign language courses, training about 90 parents, providers and others. We provided workshops in feeding, parenting, health and medication, challenging behaviors, growth and development, sensory integration concerns, prematurity and resources to name just a few! The program has supported over 1000 family members, educators and providers during Fiscal Year 2010. PCCD's RCP continues to provide Augmentative and Assisted Technology communication evaluations for families in the RCP. With great new technology available, the possibilities are truly endless. We are all having fun learning and playing with new applications. We have a lending library and equipment loan program. Many children have benefited from the equipment loan program.



The RCPs in the Commonwealth (6 in total) provide assistance with inclusion resources for families and educators. We have begun working with EEC staff on a regular basis so that we can provide an easier transition for children as they leave EI and enter the school system. The Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) has a free IEP checklist iPhone App. They are based in Virginia but the checklist is a helpful tool when preparing for your child's IEP.

Effective July 1, 2010, staff in the RCP will be available on a part time basis. The best way to contact us is via email: rcp@TheProfessionalCenter.org. If you prefer to call: ext 242

The RCPs like everyone else, continues to do more with less resources. A HUGE "thank you" goes to our great RCP team who continue to think creatively outside the box in amazing ways:

Rachel Daniels, OT
Beth Magnuson, OT
Wilawan Chaiyarat, PT

Kristin Forsberg, SLP
Cathy Hill, OT
and Linda Piette, RD.

Kim Winters, DS
Kristiana Kurth, DS

Staff Spotlight



Name: Patricia (Tish) MacInnes Carmona, RNC

Education: Charlestown HS, Boston State College and Simmons College

Position: Classroom Nurse—Developmental Day School

Years at the PCCD: 8 years as a parent and 4 years professionally

Thoughts about working at the PCCD:

"It is a tremendous opportunity to work with the very best staff and I feel fortunate to be able to care for such extraordinary students."

"I always feel like I am receiving much more than I am able to give".

Name: Aimee Phleger, BS Sped., CEIS

Education: Andover HS (Volunteered at the PCCD in HS), Fitchburg State College

Position: EI Educational Coordinator

Years at the PCCD: Teacher in The Day School in 1989 for 3 years—came back to EI in 2001

Thoughts about working at the PCCD:

"I feel like the PCCD is my home away from home"

"I am blessed to work in such a positive and inspiring environment"

PTP / Preschool News

—By Kim Briggs, M.Ed. CCC-SLP

Spring has sprung and summer is in the air in the 2x3 Preschool classroom with the children participating in many fun activities. The activities included exploring the flowers sprouting in the sensory garden, learning about birds and where they live, and gathering "treasures" from our playground like sticks, pinecones, ladybugs and even ants.

Our music time continued with Miss Samantha. The children all love to sing, dance and play musical instruments together.

We had a special visit from Rose Konjoian from Konjoian Nurseries. Rose spoke to the children about plants and planting. The children were able to surprise their Moms with plants for a Mother's Day gift.

We say good-bye to our Miss Liz. Miss Liz is beginning her graduate school practicum. The students presented her with a card signed by all and a bouquet of flowers. Lunch Bunch had a special lunch bunch day for Miss Liz. We will all miss her and wish her the best during her practicum.

Our Summer Preschool program, "The Great Summer Adventure", is filled. We had a tremendous response and have established a wait list. There are still slots available for the 2x3 Preschool for the fall, 2010. The Preschool meets on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am to 11:45 am.

Our Play Pals group (usually on Saturdays) will be expanded to include one more 4 week session. The session will run on Mondays, from 1pm to 2:30pm from July 12 to August 2.

Individual Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapy evaluations and therapy sessions are available for children ages 3 through 7 years, and are by appointment only.

For more information about the Private Therapy Program (PTP), contact Kim Briggs, at ext. 226 or PTP@TheProfessionalCenter.org



Two by Two & Early Intervention Group News

It is that time of year again, time to say goodbye to some of our friends in the 2x2 groups as they leave us for fun summer plans and then preschool in the fall. One of the most rewarding parts of a teacher or therapist's job is to remember children on their first day and then compare them to their last. We have watched our friends grow during their time with us, and whether that growth has been in language, toilet training, or social skills, it has been wonderful to be a part of it!

This spring we made beautiful caterpillars and flowers at the art table, played on our playground, and explored a variety of sensory materials. For those of you that will be with us for the summer session, we look forward to seeing you the week of July 6th for our seven week summer session. Watch for many exciting summertime activities in the coming months as we get ready for another fun session of 2x2!

Melanie Shipon, M.Ed., Community Group Coordinator

Aimee Phleger, BS SPED, Early Intervention Group Coordinator



* To enroll your child in the Two-by-Two program please call Melanie at ext. 346 to get information and set up a tour of the program.
We look forward to learning and playing with your children!

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 Thank you to the members of the Board of Directors

PCCD Schedule of Events...

<u>Ongoing</u>	Parent groups—Complex Health Care Needs, - Call the Center for more information.
<u>Ongoing</u>	Two-By-Two, Day School and Agency tours for any family—call for a tour
<u>July 6th</u>	First day of 2x2 program
<u>July 12th</u>	First day of Preschool "Summer Adventure"
<u>July 19th</u>	First day of Day School Summer program
<u>Oct. 3rd</u>	Trot for Special Tots -Page 8

PCCD Wish List

Donating from the "Wish List" is easy. Just Call the Center,

- ◆ Batteries AA, C, D, 9 volt
- ◆ Items for our silent auction and Road Race prizes
- ◆ Art Supplies, Bubbles and Play Doh
- ◆ Dish towels and pot holders
- ◆ Printing of agency newsletter or brochures
- ◆ New or used (in good condition) car seats
- ◆ Gift certificates (BJ's and Market Basket, Toys' R Us, gas cards)

Continued from page 1 — Past stars - Caroline and Catherine...

One of our first phone calls after returning home after each trip to China was to The Professional Center for Child Development. Home visits were tremendously beneficial and both girls made huge strides week after week. The Two-by-Two Program at the Center provided their first playgroup/school setting in a warm, nurturing environment with the opportunity to interact with other children.

Today, nearly eleven years after beginning our journey, both girls are healthy, happy, well-adjusted and full of love. They are talented, creative and sure do know how to have fun! Each day is a reminder of just how far we have come.

We will forever hold a very special place in our hearts for the PCCD and all of the dedicated staff who are so devoted to the work they do and the children they help. **Thank you all for making Our Children, Our Stars shine so very BRIGHT!**
- By: Mom Maureen.

Present star—Sammy... By: Ellen, Parent Liaison

Sammy works hard each day to achieve new skills, learn new ideas and explore his environment. He is a student in the Developmental Day school.



Sammy (age 4) uses his feet to do many things including painting and playing the keyboard. He also enjoys reading books, playing on the swings, and his weekly music therapy sessions.

He cruises around the classroom with the help of a walker and is loving the freedom.

To Our Future Stars...

The Professional Center for Child Development will continue to be a place to turn for help with children of all abilities and their families.

Look to us for...

Education, In-School Complex Medical Support and training, Fun, Nutrition, Play Groups, Parent Workshops, Physical Therapy, Consultation, Family Activities, Preschool, Occupational Therapy, Evaluations, Feeding Expertise, Special Education, Speech & Language Therapy, Assistive Technology, Play-Based Developmental Groups, Home Visits, and much more!



Helpful Hints for adding Speech and Language Techniques to a Successful Story Time... By PCCD Speech and Language therapist - Cheryl Bruk, SLP

- ◆ Have fun!
- ◆ Talk about the pictures and what they see.
- ◆ Don't worry about reading the story word for word - let the child take the lead.
- ◆ It is OK to skip pages or stay on one page over and over again.
- ◆ Children love to make their one books. Tape family / or special occasion photos on pages and encourage your toddler to "tell the story".



Highlights From The Day School

- By Linda Sliwoski, M.Ed.

There is always a lot going on in the Day School. This year, besides our everyday curriculum activities, we have had two special events, our Winter Festival in December and our recent Young Author's Tea. These enrichment activities provide our very talented students the opportunity to share some of what they do in school with their family and friends.

Our Winter Festival had students sharing their version of the classic song Winter Wonderland. The event was enhanced by the student decorated hats, scarves and snowmen which highlighted the performance. Students then led the audience in a winter sing-a-long.

During our Young Author's Tea, students used computer software and switches to write an original story by making choices for the topic and the content to be included. The creative Day School staff helped by putting the stories into books, which were embellished to create a multi sensory experience. Students then presented their stories to family and friends during our tea. These wonderful books are currently part of our classroom library and can be checked out.



GOODBYE

Kathy Heseltine, who has been a classroom assistant in the day School for 29 years will be leaving at the end of the school year in June to begin her much deserved retirement. She has been a dedicated and loyal staff member at PCCD bringing a positive attitude and big smile with her everyday. Over the years, Kathy has shared her enthusiasm and creativity with everyone who has met her through the Day school. We will miss her very much and wish her all the best.

The PCCD Developmental Day School provides coordinated educational, therapeutic, social and referral services to children with complex health care needs (age 3 through 7) & their families.

Please call Linda Sliwoski, ext. 210 for information about openings in the Developmental Day School and a tour of the program.

Susan Murphy, a classroom aide will be leaving us at the end of the year. Susan and her husband are expecting their third child in September. We will miss her and wish all the best to Susan and her family.

WELCOME

We are very pleased to announce the following additions to the Day School team:

Vianna DeOleo, currently a classroom aide will replace Kathy starting in July in the position of classroom assistant. While Kathy leaves big shoes to fill, Vianna's great experience will assure a smooth transition.

Bridget Braverman, RN joins Mary's classroom two days per week. Bridget is a former PCCD staff member who previously worked as a teacher in the Developmental Day School. We are thrilled to have her back!

Hayley Carlin joins the Day School team as a classroom aide in Mary's room two days per week.

Other News:

- This year we had a very successful Coffee & Conversation Series. Each month different Day School staff were guests at our parent group meeting to informally chat about specific topics relating to their expertise. We hope to continue this next year as it is a great way to promote communication and share information. And because we learn so much from parents, we have also started offering home visits to interested families. Staff are grateful for being welcomed into families homes and have found the visits to be very informative and beneficial.

- We now have a Flip video camera thanks to the generous donation of a special friend of the Day School. We are excited about the opportunity to increase our use of technology in educational, creative and fun ways.

PCCD Developmental Day School
LIMITLESS OPPORTUNITIES

New "Developments"

- Julianne Bloise, Director of Development

Greetings to all the families and friends of The Professional Center! I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Julianne Bloise and I am the new Director of Development. Formerly, I was a reporter and Sunday Editor at The Eagle-Tribune newspaper, and I also worked in the Development Office at Central Catholic High School in Lawrence. It is a privilege to be working for the PCCD, and I look forward to being part of such a wonderful team that helps so many children and families. If you have the opportunity, I invite you to stop by the Center's Andover location for a tour; watching the children grow and learn is inspiring, and the staff and administrators at the Center would love to meet you.

Thanks to the generosity of many sponsors, donors and attendees, our **Annual Swing Into Spring Gala** on April 30th was a smashing success. We broke records for attendance and amount of money raised. This year's theme was "Our Children, Our Stars" and highlighted the accomplishments of our alumni, and honored people from the community for their outstanding work with children. **Matt Noyes**, Meteorologist at New England Cable News, served as Master of Ceremonies and Auctioneer. Receiving Children First Awards were **Gene Landis**, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner at Greater Lawrence Family Health Network,

"Our Children, Our Stars" Gala Sponsors

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and our own **Roxann Nickerson**, the first Physical Therapist at The PCCD. Roxann is retiring after 30 years and will be greatly missed by the staff, parents and children. Receiving the Community Service Award was the **Knights of Columbus Andover Council 1078**. Guest Speaker was **Emily Cogliano**, PCCD Class of 1992, who inspired everyone with her accomplishments, hopes and dreams. Our sincere thanks go out to our sponsors, as well as the many individuals and businesses that purchased ads in our Gala Keepsake Program Book and donated items for the auction. A majority of the 300 attendees danced the night away after the auction concluded and a good time was had by all. We look forward to seeing you at our 2011 event!

Since the last newsletter, the Center has received a gift from the **Josephine G. Russell Trust**. This generous grant will help provide services to families.

Our next event is the **Annual Trot for Special Tots 5K Road**

Race & Walk, tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 3rd. Now in its 18th year, the Trot is a fun way for families to socialize and get to know one another while helping raise money for programs here at the Center. Prizes are awarded in several race categories and the walk is friendly for all ages and abilities. In addition, there is a free cookout and costume parade (for adults as well as children), as well as special awards for the top money earners and door prizes. T-shirts are guaranteed to those who sign up early. Look for online registration to begin during the summer, and check out our **website** and **Facebook page** for Trot updates!

SAVE THE DATE!

18th Annual Trot for Special Tots 5K Road Race &

Walk

Sunday, October 3rd, 2010



Family Involvement in Early Intervention

Parent Leadership Project 1-877-35-EI-PLP

The Project's main goal is to promote lifetime advocacy and leadership skills, and work to develop an informed parent constituency which will, in turn, encourage Early Intervention services to be increasingly family centered. As a parent initiated and parent driven endeavor, the PLP continually seeks family input regarding the needs of EI families in our state. Identifying these needs helps determine future direction for the project as well as the EI system as a whole.

The Parent Perspective is a free newsletter written by and for parents distributed 8 times a year. Parents are invited to submit articles. The Professional Center frequently submits articles and information to this publication. Call the PLP to receive the newsletter.

Become more involved...
Join a statewide committee or task group with The Massachusetts Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC).



You can make The Professional Center for Child Development even better...

~ Join the Friends of The Center ~

~ Volunteer for an event ~

Family Rights in Early Intervention Services

In your intake packet, each family received a brochure on family rights in EI. If you would like another copy, please ask your service coordinator.

If more information is needed, The Department of Public Health has written standards for the operation of Early Intervention Programs and written procedures that protect your rights. You may get a copy of these at the PCCD or by going on the DPH web site.

Early Intervention services in Massachusetts are provided in

This newsletter is designed to share information with families colleagues, the community, and contributors. The newsletter is written by Ellen Waddill (the PCCD Parent Liaison) and is edited by those who write articles and other PCCD staff.

To contribute articles, stories, poetry, etc.,

please call Ellen at ext. 217 or Ellen@TheProfessionalcenter.org

Family TIES of Massachusetts

(TIES—Together In Enhancing Support)

A statewide information and support network for families of children with disabilities, special health care needs, or chronic illness.

"Friends of The Center"

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift to help The PCCD provide services and support for families and children as has been done for three decades. With your help, PCCD will expand services, develop new programs, and make facility improvements.

\$25 _____ **\$50** _____ **\$100** _____ **\$200** _____
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Embracing Children of All Abilities



Attendees included... from left, Rep. Barry Finegold, Barry Pett from Sen. Tarr's staff, Rep. David Torrissi, Sen. Steven Baddour, Sandy Levine, EI Director; and Veryl Anderson, Executive Director. Seated are students Avery and Dylan.

Can We Talk?

"You got our letters... Now, let's talk" was the theme of The Professional Center for Child Development's Legislative Coffee Hour on April 12, 2010. Over 55 children, parents, Massachusetts law makers, Staff, and Friends of the Center were on hand to join in conversation about the importance of EI & Special Ed. Senators Baddour, Tarr, and Tucker along with Representatives Finegold, L'Italien, and Torrissi spoke of how Early Intervention has touched their lives in a personal way. Some spoke of experiences with friends or relatives and some as the parent of a child who received EI services. The legislative delegation in the Merrimack Valley has been receptive and understanding throughout the years in regard to children and families - and we thank them for that.

Adrienne Ward, a former EI parent talked to the group about her experience. Mrs. Ward said, "Five years ago at the tender age of 2, my son Gavin, who was born premature, spoke only 3 words". She went on to share about her fears for the future and how the PCCD Early Intervention Program helped Gavin become the confidante first grader he is now. Erin Knyff also spoke about the challenges and

joys of taking care of a child who is not typically developing.

The families at the PCCD had sent letters, emails and made phone calls to Beacon Hill. Many of the letters and photos of the children were suspended from the ceiling of the Andover Center. Hanging at eye level the legislators could once again read the words of a worried Methuen grandparent "what happens if these children don't receive help? How will they be able to perform when it's time to attend preschool?" and concern from a North Andover couple... "Under the proposed cutbacks, our twins would not have been eligible for services. I cannot imagine our family's life without Early Intervention". We were pleased to have a lively discussion and an opportunity for our elected officials hear of the amazing work done at The Professional Center for Child Development.